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**Worship & Holy Communion**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Sunday, May 5, 2024 9:30 a.m.

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This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

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***In God's Service***

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jane Harris
Ministers:	All Baptized People of God
Music:	Joe Chodur
Reader:	Geri Barker
Ushers	Larry & Deb Stockberger

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## **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*If you have special prayer requests, you would like included in the Prayers of the Church, please write them on a purple slip from the table by the offering plate in the Narthex. The prayers will be brought forward during the Offertory.*

### **BLESSING OF QUILTS AND PERSONAL CARE KITS**

### **CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the**

sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of **+**Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

***In Christ There Is No East or West***

***ELW 650***



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;  
3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.  
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.  
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.  
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.  
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

**ELW 414**

**vs 1**



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we  
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -  
3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred  
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,  
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your  
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with  
and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to  
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"  
set of sun through the church the song goes on.  
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **Acts 10:44-48**

The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles

### **Psalm 98**

Shout with joy to the LORD,  
all you lands.

### **1 John 5:1-6**

The victory of faith

### **John 15:9-17**

Christ the friend and lover

A reading from Acts:

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: (Please read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
**whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.**

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made known your victory,  
**you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of  
Israel;

**all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
**lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
**with the harp and the voice of song.**

<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
**shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
**the world and those who dwell therein.**

<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands,  
**and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge  
the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness  
**and the peoples with equity.**

A reading from 1 John:

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God,  
and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that  
we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his  
commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his  
commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for  
whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that  
conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the  
one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is the one who  
came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with

the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I

appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**  
*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* **ELW 708**

*Refrain*



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,  
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,  
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



*Refrain*

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.  
Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin  
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## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY*)**

**P:** Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. ***A brief silence.*** Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word.

**C:** **Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners.**

**P:** You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish.

**C:** **Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures.**

**P:** Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all.

**C: Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation.**

**P:** Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness.

**C: Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another.**

**P:** Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world.

**C: Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers.**

**P:** Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us (*especially*).

**C: At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table.**

**P:** Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*(The assembly stands)*

**OFFERTORY**                      **Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult**                      **ELW 696 Vs 1**

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our  
life's wild restless sea, day by day his clear voice  
sounding, saying, "Christian, follow me"

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.**

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*Each side will be ushered forward down the center aisle. Those on the pulpit side will kneel at the communion rail at the front and fill into the back. Those on the lector side will kneel at the communion rail at the back and fill in to the front. Pastor will distribute the elements from the pulpit front and around the back. Communion is continual. Return your cups to the trays by the pews.  
(The assembly is seated)*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*Accompanist Choice*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *The assembly stands.*

Let us pray.

**Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.**

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG****Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing****ELW 389**

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Calendar

### **This Week:**

Sunday, May 5

9:30 am Worship/Communion SP

10:30 am Sunday School in

Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Fellowship

Monday, May 6

9:00 am Quilters OS

9:30 am Quilters SP

5:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Tuesday, May 7

Noon Worship Planning SP

5:15 pm Council Meeting SP

Wednesday, May 8

9:00 am Community Kitchen OS

9:30 am M & M's SP

6:30 pm Bible Study OS

### **Next Week:**

Sunday, May 12

9:30 am Worship/Communion OS

10:30 am Sunday School in

Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Fellowship

2:00 pm 2/4 Stitchers SP

Monday, May 13

9:00 am Quilters OS

9:30 am Quilters SP

5:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 15

9:30 am M&M's SP

6:30 pm Bible Study OS

Thursday, May 16

4:00 pm Community Kitchen SP



## Announcements

The **deadline** for the June/July newsletter is 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 22nd.

**Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits**-Our Saviour's will be gathering items for personal care kits thru May 12.

Most needed items:

**Adult toothbrushes**

**Bars of soap**(4oz is best, or 3 oz)

**Bath towels** (no larger than 27x52")

**Money donations** to help pay for items.

Contact Marilyn Martell 641-425-9048 for any help needed.

**Thank you** to the members of St Paul Lutheran Church from the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in grateful appreciation for giving \$4800 for Mission Support.

St. Paul will need volunteers for **Meals on Wheels** the week of June 3rd. A driver and someone to deliver to the door. You need to be available from 11 am to 12:30 p.m. approximately. If you can help please call the church office at 423-7749.

**St. Paul Update-** Money donations to help pay for shipping costs for Lutheran World Relief would be appreciated. Contact Michele Thenhaus at 641-420-6064 with any questions.

**Bible Study** has resumed at Our Saviour's on Wednesday's at 6:30 pm. The study will be on "The Chosen" series (season 2: "Blessed Are the Chosen.") A study book isn't necessary. Confirmation students— come if you are able to attend - this fulfills most of the requirements for the New Testament portion of confirmation. See Pastor Jane for questions.

The **Band Festival Food Stand** will be held Saturday, May 25. Please sign up for donations of pop, cookies, bars and money for hot dogs is needed-or to work that day. A great day to work and view the band festival parade. Proceeds will go to the "Care Closets" in Mason City Schools.

**Picture taking for our new church pictorial directory** has been set for Tuesday, June 11, and Wednesday, June 12. Photo sessions will take place at Our Saviour's in the afternoons and evenings those two days. These will be professional photos provided by Universal Church Directories. The photo sessions are free and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo, with an option to purchase more photos if you wish. You will soon be receiving a letter from us either in the mail, or an email, if that's normally how you receive communications from us. It will include information on how to register online for a time slot to take your picture. We will also have a signup sheet in the fellowship hall each Sunday, if you don't care to do it online. You can also call either church office (during office hours) and schedule it.

**3-C Ministry Fair-on June 1 at Wartburg College**-will have more than 20 workshops to help congregations. Pastor Jane is conducting one on substance abuse. Anyone wishing to attend from either church-the registration is \$50(\$25 will be reimbursed by the churches.) We are invited to bring in-kind gifts for birthday kits and women's sanitary products for synod wide Little Free Pantries .There will also be a worship service with a worship band comprised of attendees. For more complete information and registration forms, please check out the displays in the fellowship halls.

**"Start the Party!"** That's the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School - Jesus gives us the most amazing reason to party. That's why we believe God's love and the Gospel of Jesus is the best news ever. We will be

joining with our friends at St. James again this year for 4 evenings (5-8 pm) of VBS fun. **Mark your calendars for July 22-25th** and consider ways you can help out with VBS this year: providing food and/or decorations; meal prep and serving; shepherding the kids to and from activities; or teaching through crafts, games, story-telling, etc. More information and signup sheets will be coming soon!

If you feel drawn to kneel during the service, please feel free to lower the kneelers and use them.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for serving coffee hour and the Community Kitchen. **Please help where you can.**

Contact information for Pastor Jane: phone number is 641-242-0337 and her email address is [janeharris2010@gmail.com](mailto:janeharris2010@gmail.com) if anyone in our church family wanted to contact her.

Please be sure to sign friendship registers located at end of pews.

There are sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall for serving coffee hour and the Community Kitchen. **Please help where you can.**

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***St Paul Lutheran Church***

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